

Policy Statement on Whistleblowing 2007

The U.S. Department of Transportation is committed to protecting Federal employees, former Federal employees, and job applicants from interference when making protected disclosures and from retaliation for having made protected disclosures. Congress enacted the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 to strengthen protections for Federal employees who believe they are the target of unjustified personnel actions in reprisal for making disclosures about a violation of law, rule, or regulation, a gross waste of funds or mismanagement, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. More recently, President Bush signed the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act (No Fear) into law on May 15, 2002. This Act makes Federal agencies directly accountable for violations of anti-discrimination and whistleblower protection laws.

Neither I nor any member of the Department's leadership team will tolerate whistleblower reprisal. Legitimate disclosure of information by employees is an invaluable resource for the oversight of government operations. Therefore, it is my expectation that employees be able to confidently report these matters to the Department's Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, or appropriate management officials in the Department. Anyone who interferes with or retaliates against any employee making a protected disclosure will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

I am committed to maintaining the Department's role as an employer that respects the rights of Federal employees, former Federal employees, or job applicants to raise legitimate concerns without fear of reprisal. I ask everyone to join me in implementing and communicating this important policy.

Mary E. Peters